

Presentation

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| Agenda Item # | 1 |
| Meeting Date | February 26, 2007 |
| Prepared By | Ali Khalilian City Engineer |
| Approved By | Barbara B. Matthews City Manager |

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| Discussion Item | Presentation of Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Award |
| Background | <p>The City has been recertified as a Gold Chesapeake Bay Partner Community for its leadership and dedication to protecting and restoring its part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The City was first awarded this designation in 1999.</p> <p>Marilyn Praisner, Montgomery County Councilmember and Member of the Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, will present the citation to the City at the February 26 Council Meeting.</p> |
| Policy | The City Council is concerned about the environment and the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. |
| Fiscal Impact | None. |
| Attachments | Letter and press release from the Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council |
| Recommendation | |
| Special Consideration | |



October 25, 2006

Ali Khalilian
City Engineer
City of Takoma Park
31 Oswego Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Khalilian:

I am writing to congratulate you on your successful application to the Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Awards Program. The City of Takoma has been recertified as a GOLD level Bay Partner. Your community is demonstrating a commitment to restoring and protecting the Bay, its rivers, and its streams. The Local Government Advisory Committee would like to recognize your efforts.

As part of your award, I am enclosing a citation from the Chesapeake Bay Program and a press release for local distribution. You should have received a road sign with your previous award as a Partner Community in 1999. Another road sign can be provided for display in your community if desired, so please contact me at (717) 737-8622 if another one is needed.

Also, Bay Partner Communities are invited to participate in the Peer Match program which is designed to match Partner Communities with local governments that are striving to improve their land and water management activities. Please refer to the website www.baylogin.org and click on the Peer Match button for more information and examples of completed Peer Matches.

If you would like to schedule a formal presentation of your citation or road sign, please contact me at (717) 737-8622 or email me at pdevlin@acb-online.org. Once again, congratulations on your award!

Sincerely,

Pat Devlin
Local Government Advisory Committee Coordinator

Pat Devlin, LGAC Coordinator:
pdevlin@acb-online.org; (717) 737-8622 ext 14; (717) 737-8650 (fax);
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, 3310 Market St., Suite A, Camp Hill, PA, 17011

Takoma Park Recognized for Efforts to Protect Local Waters and Chesapeake Bay

State/Federal partnership honors community with Bay restoration award

– The City of Takoma Park has been recertified as a Gold Chesapeake Bay Partner Community for its leadership and dedication to protecting and restoring its part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The City was first awarded this designation in 1999.

Takoma Park will receive a citation from the Chesapeake Bay Program, a large road sign for display in the community and regional recognition by the Chesapeake Bay Program. The award will be presented to the City on February 26th by Marilyn Praisner, a Montgomery County Councilmember and member of the Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, which sponsors this award program.

The City of Takoma Park is highly urbanized but has taken aggressive steps to enhance its urban ecosystem. As development and redevelopment opportunities arise, the City works with developers to reduce impervious cover and reduce pollutants and storm flows to Sligo Creek, its main watershed and a tributary to the Anacostia River. Non-structural and innovative practices, such as bioretention areas, green roofs, and rain gardens, are given favorable reviews in development proposals. A reduction in impervious surfaces results in lower fees, an incentive for some development projects.

The City also looks for opportunities to acquire additional properties to expand its parks and open spaces, much of which is located along Sligo Creek and Long Branch Run. Urban forestry practices, stream reforestation, invasive species control, and bioretention for stormwater management are particularly focused within these linear park areas. City-wide, urban forests and trees are protected; regulation restricts pruning more than 5 percent of the urban tree canopy and trees must be replaced if removed.

The Takoma Park Committee on the Environment, the City of Takoma Park and Friends of Sligo Creek participate in an Arbor Day celebration that distributes several hundred tree seedlings. The City has a budget of \$10,000 dedicated to tree planting. The City Council has also endorsed the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Certification Program for residential homes, which promotes the planting of native trees and shrubs, reduction of impervious surfaces, and reduction of lawn fertilizer use.

Takoma Park also has various alternative fuel programs. Bio-diesel is used in all diesel engines. The City owns one hybrid car and plans to purchase additional ones as its fleet ages. The City also purchases 10% of energy from wind power.

Launched in 1997, the Bay Partner Community program recognizes local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for their commitment to protecting and restoring the Bay

and its rivers. Communities are evaluated based on their completion of a set of programs and activities, or benchmarks, that aim to protect and restore their part of the Bay watershed. Selection is based on the municipality's population and the percentage of benchmarks met in four categories: improving water quality, promoting sound land use, protecting and restoring living resources and habitat, and engaging their community.

“The Chesapeake Bay Partner Community awards celebrate the accomplishments of local governments in protecting and restoring local waterways and the Bay,” said Penny Gross, Chair of the Local Government Advisory Committee. “Local governments are vital to achieving Bay restoration goals. By promoting Bay-friendly activities, from planting streamside buffers to preserving open-space, local governments can help us bring back the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers.”

The awards are sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program and its Local Government Advisory Committee. The Committee was created by the Chesapeake Bay Program in 1988 in recognition of the critical role that the more than 1,650 local governments in the watershed play in the partnership’s ability to achieve its goals – they have statutory authority over storm water, land use, and water and sewer management.

The Chesapeake Bay Program is restoring the Bay through a partnership among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representing the federal government, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and participating citizens.

For more information, contact:

*Pat Devlin, Local Government Advisory Committee, 717-737-8622;
pdevlin@acb-online.org*

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